# *To the Copyholders of the Manor of Bondgate in Darlington.*

*Having received the following anonymous * Letter, insinuating a* falſe Charge *againſt me; I take the freedom to ſend you Copies of* Two *Letters that lately paſſed between the Owner of the Tolls and me on that Subject, whereby I hope (in your judgment) to ſtand acquitted, and am*

*Your humble Servant,*

7 *March* 1799. GEO: ALLAN.

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* To George Allan Eſq. Grange.

Sir,

In conſequence of Public Report, that you are aſſiſting the Owner of the Tolls to compel the Copyholders to bring all Materials for the Repairs of the Toll Booth, as part has lately fallen down: This We hope is not the caſe, as it will not only injure our Properties but alſo your own, and which We cannot think you will do, but that yo will rather ſupport our Rights againſt every attempt to injure them, and thereby y will receive the Thanks of every Individual in the Pariſh, and eſpecially the old Friend that now addreſſes you, and who will in due time acknowledge it.

Darlington,
2d. March 1799.

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To George Allan Eſq Grange.

Dear Sir,

From the accident which has happened to the Toll-booth in Darlington, I find I have a Call upon the Townſhip of *Cockerton* for their Carts, to carry Materials for the Repairs of that Building. I'm unacquainted with the mode and particulars as to giving them Notice to attend this duty. I wish you would have the goodneſs to give me this Information, as I'm told you have the particulars by you, which will not only, ſave me the trouble of ſending to Durham, but an expence attend a Copy from the Court at that Place. I'm

Wedneſday Noon, Your moſt obt humble Servt.
23 January 1799. J. WETHERELL.

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To John Wetherell Eſqr, Fieldhouſe near Darlington.

Sir,

By the Doomsday Books of this County, the one taken in 1183 (temp. Bp. Pudſey,) and the other between 1345 and 1381 (temp. Bp. Hatfield) both which have ſeveral times been admitted as Evidence in our Courts of Law; I do not find, that any of the Bond Tenants of the Manor of Darlington, were liable to aſſiſt in any Repairs of the Toll-booth. What they are bound to do *(ratione tenuræ)* in other Matters, are particularly ſpecified in thoſe Records.

In or about the Year 1652 (temp. Bp. Matthews) and at ſome ſubſequent periods, I believe the Leſſee of the Tolls, did claim ſome aſſiſtance towards the reparation of the Toll-booth, and Inqueſts were thereupon taken at the Halmot Courts by Juries to enquire therein, who made Return,

" That the Tenants of Copyhold Lands called Towne Lands, were by Cuſtom to
" carry and lead to the Manor-houſe of Darlington for the Uſe of the Lord, Wood,
" Lime and Stone, not exceeding a Ton-weight in a Wain, and for the repairs of the
" Toll-booth of the Burrough of Darlington, and that ſuch Tenants, were to have 2½d.
" a Mile not exceeding 7 Miles from the Manor-houſe, and not to go out of the County,
" and they were to have Drink (*Beer*) put in their Flacketts, Meat in their Wallets,
" and their Dinners when they came home."

Whether this Cuſtom was ever exacted or performed, I never could find any Evidence, nor do I believe it ever was done; for during my knowlege and receipt of the Tolls, it never was; and in particular, I know, that my Father as Receiver of the Tolls, near 40 Years, never claimed the ſervice, but on the contrary, and on the behalf of himſelf and all other the Copyholders of the Manor, actualy refuſed both aſſiſtance to the Toll-booth and Mills, and whatever reparations were made during his time (which were many) were all done at the ſole Expence of each Leſſee.

At this day, it will be a very difficult Matter to ſupport ſuch Cuſtoms, (if they ever did exiſt) as the Leſſees of both Tolls and Mills have undoubtedly forfeited every Claim to ancient Services from the Copyholders, by Innovations, Perverſions, and unwarrantable Exactions, that they cannot by any means ſupport, and if attempted to be revived or claimed on the preſent Occaſion, it may be productive of a minute Enquiry into other matters; for were I Leſſee, I would ſit ſtill, and be content with the preſent produce of my Eſtate, and neither offer to fill the Flacketts nor Wallets of the Copyholders, nor regale them with a good Dinner, which I apprehend at this day would be far more Expence to the Leſſees, than hireing their own Workmen to do ſuch Repairs.

Mr. Wetherells own Eſtate at Fieldhouſe, (as well as many others) have for the above reaſons, been many Years exonerated from Repairs of the Mill-Dams.

On the behalf of myſelf, and all other the Copyholders of the Manor of Bondgate in Darlington, the above are the free and impartial Sentiments of

Sir Your obedient humble Servant.

Grange, 24 January. 1799. GEO: ALLAN.